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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ISSA).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 29, 2006.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DARRELL E. ISSA to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Reverend Dr. John W. Coker, Jr., Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville, North Carolina, offered the following prayer:

O God, in Your sight nations rise and fall and pass through times of peril. In Your name, our forebears won liberty for us all and lit the torch of freedom for nations then unborn.

Give constant and wise counsel to this Congress, to the President, and to the judiciary of this land. Make these servants equal to our trust, reverent in the use of freedom, just in the exercise of power, generous in the protection of weakness. Be present with our Armed Forces throughout the world and with their families.

Keep us mindful of how small the Earth is, how interrelated our lives have become, and how fragile security and peace can be. Hold us together as one people. Guard us from prejudices against neighbors who, having come from many lands, now pledge allegiance to one flag.

Have mercy upon us, O Lord, and grant us Your peace.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. CAPITO led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

INTRODUCTION OF DR. JOHN WRIGHT COKER, JR.

(Mr. MCINTYRE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I am very honored today to introduce to you the gentleman who just gave our opening prayer, our guest pastor, John Wright Coker, Jr., from Fayetteville, North Carolina.

Jay, as he is known to all of us as his friends, is a native of Leland, North Carolina, in southeastern North Carolina, which I have the great opportunity to represent.

His commitment to spreading the word of God both here in the United States and abroad is unparalleled. Currently serving in his 12th year as pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Fayetteville, Jay has also led churches in South Carolina, Tennessee, and Mississippi.

Active in the Presbyterian Church U.S.A., Dr. Coker serves on the Presbytery Council, the Committee on

Budget and Finance, and the Outreach Foundation. In addition, he has traveled the world with passion and purpose to spread God's word. From Mexico to the Middle East to Cuba, he has worked to build brighter and stronger communities while opening hearts and minds to the power and promise of God's unconditional love.

Mr. Speaker, Jay is blessed with a strong family, who are here with him today, including his wife, Sharon, and children John, Joseph, and Margaret Ann, and other friends and his mother.

Our State of North Carolina and Nation are blessed to have him as an ambassador of the Holy Scriptures and an ambassador of the promise we have for tomorrow.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and may God's blessings be upon Dr. Coker and his family and, indeed, upon our Nation.

REPUBLICANS WIN HOUSE BASKETBALL TITLE

(Mr. OXLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to announce the results of the basketball game last night between the Republicans and the Democrats at Gallaudet University: 35-26, the Republicans prevailed. Try to curb your enthusiasm.

It was a wonderful game in the tradition. This is the 12th game in the series.

I want to thank our players, particularly SHIMKUS, FERGUSON, LOBIONDO, HULSHOF, WAMP, FOSSELLA, STEARNS, FLAKE, DENT, ENSIGN. Mr. Speaker, we actually had two Senators, ENSIGN and THUNE. The good news was, of course, they are former House Members and they were trained the right way in basketball.

Gallaudet University is a great university, of course, the only school for

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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